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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
Attorney General of Connecticut  
55 Elm Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Honorable Roy Cooper  
Attorney General of North Carolina  
9001 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001

Dear General Blumenthal and General Cooper:

I am in receipt of the new study released by Harvard University today as the culmination of your working group's efforts to study the threats of the internet. I understand that neither I nor many of my colleagues were given notice of the imminent release of this report or allowed to provide any input in advance of its release. Perhaps, that explains the obvious lack of balance in its conclusions. What started out with the noble goal of better understanding how to protect our children on-line has been tainted by an agenda influenced group who would shield criminals from culpability while placing blame on circumstances, social trends, and victims. The conclusions reached by this group deeply disturb all who seek to protect children, who work to enforce these laws, and who act to hold these despicable predators to account as attorneys general are bound to do. It is actions like these that erode any confidence I might have in the ability of Harvard to break from its liberal mindset and produce a product that would find solutions rather than just assigning blame and making excuses.

Since becoming Attorney General, I have responded to the pleas of victims, families, and law enforcement, and I have elevated and intensified the pursuit of those who prey on our kids by drafting and working to pass a tough new Community Notification Law and a severe child pornography law. Moreover, for the last three years, I have written and worked to pass a critical new on-line solicitation law that targets the serious threat your report now downplays. Numerous other states, as well as the federal government, have recognized this emerging threat and have passed similar on-line solicitation laws. This report flies in the face of countless other studies such as the one


January 15, 2009

Page Two

done by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children which states that the risk to children is great, and that 1 in 7 youths are exposed to unwanted sexual solicitations; 1 in 3 youths experience unwanted exposure to sexual material; and 1 in 11 youths experience harassment, threatening, or other harmful behavior directed at them. Your task force's report could have particularly devastating effects. Undoubtedly, this report will be used as a defensive tool that will be cited by the child predators who target and prey on our kids and will have to be refuted by those of us who are working daily to protect them. Anyone in law enforcement with real-life experience investigating the solicitation of children on-line can tell you that the threat is very real and far greater than the dangers of "off-line" life. To issue a report with opinions to the contrary with admittedly incomplete research is the height of irresponsibility to the children of our nation.

For these reasons, I ask that you remove my name from among those who commissioned this study and that you note my real world and common sense disagreement with its findings.

Sincerely,



Troy King  
Attorney General

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